

INSIGHTS

Volume 4: Issue 6 July 2014

SC Department of Employment and Workforce

Business Intelligence Department

Economic Indicators

July 2014 - Seasonally Adjusted (SA)

	United States	SC
Labor Force	156,023,000	2,168,272
Employed	146,352,000	2,043,602
Unemployed	9,671,000	124,670
Unemployed Rate	6.2%	5.7%

Average Hours & Earnings

	United States (SA)	SC (Unadj.)
Avg. Weekly Earnings	\$1,018.00	\$761.37
Avg. Weekly Hours	40.9	41.0
Avg. Hourly Wage	\$ 24.89	\$ 18.57

Top Job Growth by MSA (SA)

	Over Month % Change	Over Year % Change
Florence MSA	0.69%	3.01%
Sumter MSA	0.52%	1.05%
Myrtle Beach MSA	0.48%	5.28%
Charleston MSA	0.35%	0.26%

Employment to Population Ratio (SA)

	2014	2013
U.S. Population Ratio	59.0%	58.7%
S.C. Population Ratio	54.5%	54.3%

Labor Force Participation Rate (SA)

	July	June	% Change
U.S. Participation Rate	62.9%	62.8%	0.1%
S.C. Participation Rate	57.8%	57.8%	0.0%

United States Consumer Price Index

12-Month CPI	2.0%
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HIGHLIGHTS

- Unemployment rate increases from 5.3 to 5.7 percent
- First increase in the state's unemployment rate since June 2011
- All counties report unemployment rate increases
- Payroll employment drops 4,600

View the
[S.C. Employment Situation Report](#)

Employment
6,442



Unemployment
9,124



Unemployment
Rate
0.4%



Unemployment Rate Shifts Upward

In July, South Carolina's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 5.7 percent from 5.3 percent in June, marking a shift upward after no change during the second quarter of the year and the first over-the-month increase since June 2011. The estimated number of unemployed persons grew by 9,124 to 124,670. The estimated number of working South Carolinians dropped by 6,442 people to 2,043,602. From June to July, the labor force noted an increase of 2,682 to a level of 2,168,272.

Over the year, approximately 28,740 people found work. The number of unemployed people decreased by nearly 43,880 as the unemployment rate declined 2 percentage points.

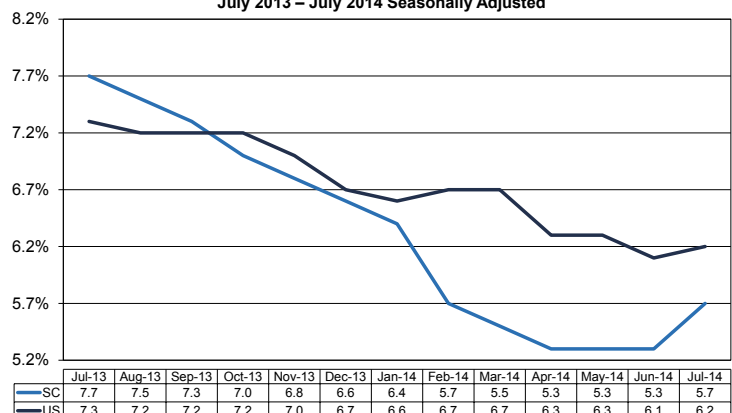
Approximately 15,140 people left the labor force when compared to July 2013.

Nationally, over the month, the July unemployment rate increased to 6.2 percent from 6.1 percent in June.

Since early February, the state's unemployment rate has moved in a tight range of 5.3 to 5.7 percent, and employment has averaged approximately 2,047,000 people, while unemployment has averaged about 119,000 people over the same time period. There has been negligible movement in the size of the labor force over the past five months.

As August arrives, and the summer season winds down, we remain optimistic about continued employment opportunities for job seekers in South Carolina.

Unemployment Rates in South Carolina and The United States
July 2013 – July 2014 Seasonally Adjusted



Insights is prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The current month's estimates are preliminary, while all previous data are subject to revision. All estimates are projected from a first quarter 2013 benchmark. To subscribe to *Insights*, please email bidcustomerservice@dew.sc.gov or to provide feedback please click on the [BID Customer Feedback Form](#).

South Carolina's Ranked 29 of 51 in July

State Unemployment Rates

Mississippi	8.0
Georgia	7.8
Michigan	7.7
Nevada	7.7
Rhode Island	7.7
California	7.4
District Of Columbia	7.4
Kentucky	7.4
Tennessee	7.1
Alabama	7.0
Arizona	7.0
Oregon	6.9
Illinois	6.8
Connecticut	6.6
New Mexico	6.6
New York	6.6
Alaska	6.5
Missouri	6.5
New Jersey	6.5
North Carolina	6.5
West Virginia	6.3
Arkansas	6.2
Delaware	6.2
Florida	6.2
United States	6.2
Maryland	6.1
Indiana	5.9
Wisconsin	5.8
Ohio	5.7
Pennsylvania	5.7
South Carolina	5.7
Massachusetts	5.6
Washington	5.6
Maine	5.5
Louisiana	5.4
Virginia	5.4
Colorado	5.3
Texas	5.1
Kansas	4.9
Idaho	4.8
Montana	4.6
Oklahoma	4.6
Iowa	4.5
Minnesota	4.5
Hawaii	4.4
New Hampshire	4.4
Wyoming	4.4
South Dakota	3.7
Vermont	3.7
Nebraska	3.6
Utah	3.6
North Dakota	2.8

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), eight states experienced decreases in their unemployment rates, 30 states had increases, and 12 states and the District of Columbia remained unchanged. South Carolina ranked 29 out of 51 in July at 5.7 percent. In the Southeast region, South Carolina's rate remained lower than Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina and Tennessee.

Montana experienced a significant (0.7 percent) employment increase, followed by Arizona, Kentucky, Missouri, New Mexico, and Utah at 0.5 percent each. The largest decrease in employment was in West Virginia at -0.4 percent, followed by Maryland at -0.3 percent and Ohio and South Carolina at -0.2 percent each.

Over the year, nonfarm employment increased in 49 of the 50 states and the District of Columbia with declines in Alaska at -0.7 percent. The largest over-the-year increase occurred in North Dakota at 4.4 percent, followed by Nevada at 3.8 percent and finally Utah at 3.6 percent.

July Unemployment Rate by County

For the second consecutive month, not seasonally adjusted county unemployment rates moved higher.

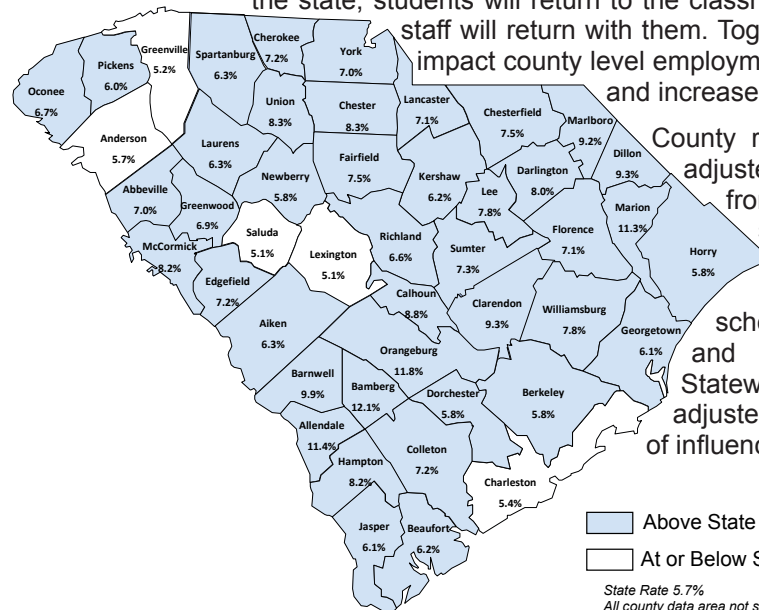
From June to July 2014, all 46 counties showed increases in their not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates. Orangeburg County experienced the largest change, rising 3.4 percent. Saluda County noted the smallest increase (0.2 percent).

Highest County Unemployment Rate		Lowest County Unemployment Rate	
Bamberg	12.1%	Lexington	5.1%
Orangeburg	11.8%	Saluda	5.1%
Allendale	11.4%	Greenville	5.2%
Marion	11.3%	Charleston	5.4%
Barnwell	9.9%	Anderson	5.7%

Since July 2013, all county rates have declined by a range of 0.9 percent (Charleston County) to 3.7 percent (Marlboro County).

Looking at employment growth over the year, all counties have reported increases. Horry County has the largest gain with nearly 5,190 people finding work. Both Greenville and Spartanburg showed 2,200 growth, while York county showed a 2,125 increase.

In the near term, coastal areas heavily influenced by tourism will note a decline in their employment levels as the usual summer season employment starts to decline. Across the state, students will return to the classroom, and school support staff will return with them. Together, these changes will impact county level employment with some decreases and increases.



County rates are not seasonally adjusted and are derived from the statewide not seasonally adjusted rate. Some examples of seasonal influence are school schedules, holidays, and weather patterns. Statewide rates are seasonally adjusted to remove these types of influences.

Above State Rate
 At or Below State Rate
 State Rate 5.7%
 All county data area not seasonally adjusted.

Employment Changes by County May 2014 through July 2014

County	Employment			Net Change From	
	Jul 2014	Jun 2014	May 2014	Jun '14 - Jul '14	May '14 - Jun '14
Abbeville	10,118	10,245	10,165	-127	80
Aiken	73,077	72,692	72,855	385	-163
Allendale	2,847	2,869	2,836	-22	33
Anderson	82,820	83,652	83,324	-832	328
Bamberg	5,100	5,156	5,096	-56	60
Barnwell	7,459	7,518	7,465	-59	53
Beaufort	62,197	63,028	62,531	-831	497
Berkeley	83,201	83,016	82,601	185	415
Calhoun	6,011	6,033	6,016	-22	17
Charleston	171,470	171,090	170,234	380	856
Cherokee	23,477	23,813	23,671	-336	142
Chester	13,572	13,709	13,666	-137	43
Chesterfield	17,398	17,566	17,447	-168	119
Clarendon	11,076	11,161	11,064	-85	97
Colleton	15,810	15,945	15,800	-135	145
Darlington	28,155	28,244	27,989	-89	255
Dillon	11,431	11,552	11,406	-121	146
Dorchester	66,524	66,376	66,044	148	332
Edgefield	10,317	10,262	10,285	55	-23
Fairfield	9,388	9,423	9,397	-35	26
Florence	59,035	59,219	58,686	-184	533
Georgetown	28,184	28,347	27,869	-163	478
Greenville	219,603	221,647	221,395	-2,044	252
Greenwood	28,647	29,062	28,828	-415	234
Hampton	7,046	7,121	7,047	-75	74
Horry	134,453	132,742	126,513	1,711	6,229
Jasper	10,081	10,215	10,135	-134	80
Kershaw	27,702	27,803	27,727	-101	76
Lancaster	31,279	31,635	31,508	-356	127
Laurens	28,162	28,424	28,392	-262	32
Lee	7,441	7,469	7,392	-28	77
Lexington	129,212	129,683	129,329	-471	354
McCormick	3,027	3,057	3,031	-30	26
Marion	10,258	10,301	10,135	-43	166
Marlboro	10,170	10,298	10,198	-128	100
Newberry	17,194	17,347	17,193	-153	154
Oconee	29,688	30,047	29,835	-359	212
Orangeburg	35,895	36,299	35,912	-404	387
Pickens	54,398	54,904	54,842	-506	62
Richland	172,573	173,201	172,730	-628	471
Saluda	8,441	8,471	8,448	-30	23
Spartanburg	130,258	131,631	131,443	-1,373	188
Sumter	41,073	41,271	41,188	-198	83
Union	10,685	10,819	10,746	-134	73
Williamsburg	14,439	14,533	14,343	-94	190
York	104,964	105,723	106,321	-759	-598

South Carolina Non-Farm Employment Trends for July - Seasonally Adjusted

July's seasonally adjusted, non-farm payrolls fell by 4,600 over the month to a level of 1,928,400. Drops in Professional and Business Services (-3,800); Education and Health Services (-1,700); Manufacturing (-1,000); Information (-500); and Other Services (-300) fueled the overall decrease.

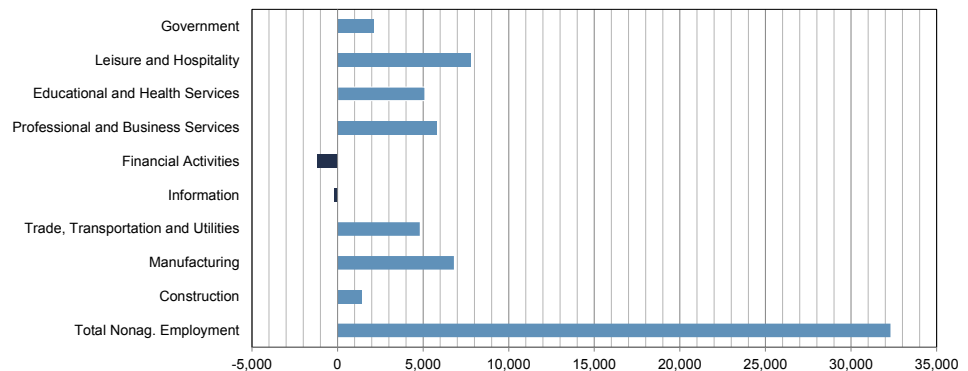
The largest job gain was in Leisure and Hospitality (+1,000) with additional smaller increases in Construction (+600); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+600); Financial Activities (+400); and Government (+100).

Between July 2013 and July 2014, seasonally adjusted non-farm jobs were up 32,300. Industries with noticeable gains were Leisure and Hospitality (+7,800); Manufacturing (+6,800); Professional and Business Services (+5,800); Education and Health Services (+5,100); and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+4,800). Government climbed (+2,100) along with Construction (+1,400). Financial Activities (-1,200); Other Services (-200); and Information (-200) experienced declines over the year.

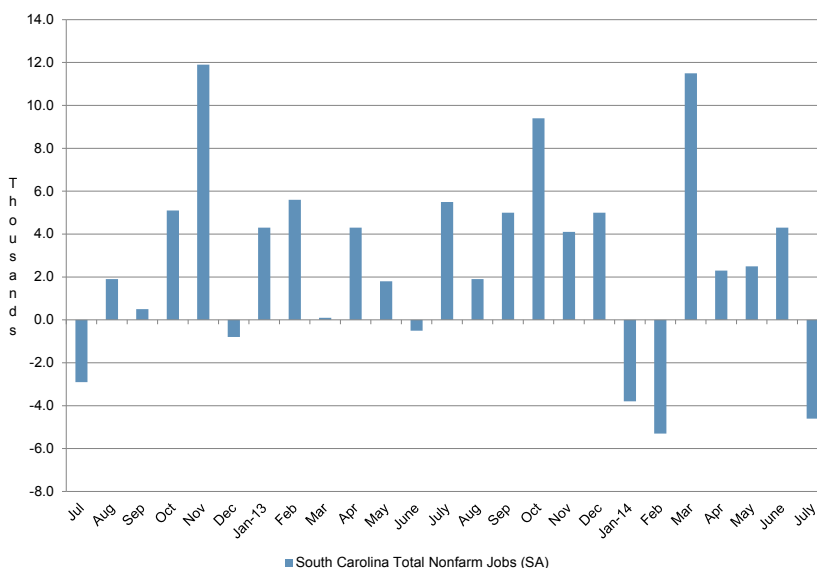
Only five of the Metropolitan Statistical Areas saw a seasonally adjusted over-the-month increase in employment. The largest jump was seen in Charleston (+1,100), while Florence and Myrtle Beach both saw improvement (+600). Spartanburg and Sumter had increases of (+300) and (+200), respectively. The largest decrease in employment registered in Columbia (-800), and additional losses were seen in Greenville (-500) and Anderson (-100).

When looking at seasonally adjusted payroll employment over-the-year, every Metropolitan Statistical Area saw growth. The most prominent expansion was in Myrtle Beach with a gain of (+ 6,600), followed by Greenville (+5,900). Spartanburg (+3,000), Florence (+2,600), Anderson (+1,500), and Columbia (+1,000) all had sizeable increases. Moderate growth was reported in Charleston (+800) and Sumter (+400).

South Carolina Job Changes by Industry
July 2013 - July 2014 (SA)



SC Total Nonfarm Jobs
2012-2014



To see the monthly not-seasonally adjusted data series, go to
www.SCWorkforceInfo.com
 (Employment and Wage Data section)

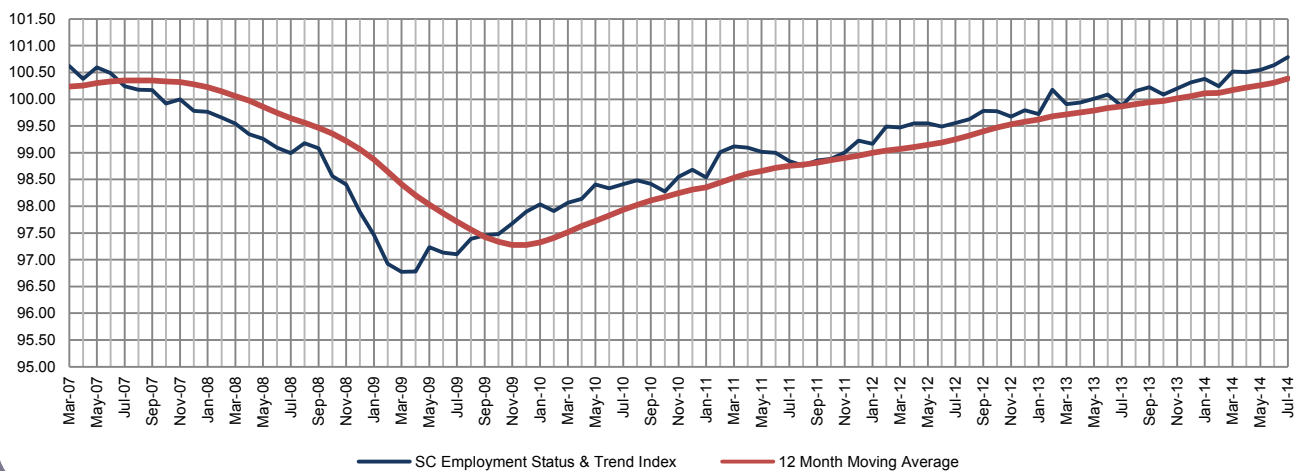
South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index Sets New Life Time High

On top of moderate gains achieved in the two previous months, South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index (SCESTI) ended July with a strong 0.15 point jump. Standing at 100.79, SCESTI has reached a recorded high, surpassing its last month's value of 100.64 and its third highest level of 100.62 (achieved in March of 2007). Attributing to this month's advance of SCESTI was a 6.08 percent gain of the Conference Board's SC Help Wanted Online Ads, a 5.21 percent rise of the Conference Board's US Consumer Confidence Index, and a 0.33 percent rise of the Conference Board's US Employment Trends Index. On the other hand, a small increase (0.44 percent) of the number of initial claims for Unemployment Insurance, and a 0.73 percent drop of the Manufacture Average Weekly Working Hours, weighed SCESTI on the down side.

Compared with 12 months ago, SCESTI and all the index components have achieved across-the-board improvements. SCESTI was 0.92 percent higher than it was in July of 2013. Three out of the five index components have seen double-digit percentage point improvements: The Unemployment Insurance Initial Claims dropped almost 21 percent; The Conference Board's SC Help Wanted Online Ads surged 12.46 percent; and the US Consumer Confidence Index was 12.22 percent higher than 12 months ago. The Conference Board's US Employment Trends Index and the Manufacturing Average Weekly Hours were also in positive territory, higher than July of 2013 by 6.93 and 3.27 percent, respectively.

July's advance of SCESTI is extremely encouraging. The index has achieved a new life-time high, and also marks the 35th consecutive monthly (since August of 2011) movement above the 12-month moving average, which indicates steady improvements for the employment situation in South Carolina for the next four to six months.

South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index



Top 10 Projected Occupations in SC for 2022

The newly released 2012 to 2022 employment projections indicate that more than 228,800 new jobs will be added among the almost 700 detailed occupations in South Carolina. That is nearly a 12 percent increase over 10 years.

In order to further help educators, career counselors, students, and interested individuals in making career plans, tables showing the top 10 occupations in terms of number, of percentage increases, and of number of total job openings are listed below.

Table 1. Top 10 occupations in employment number increase

Occupation Title	Employment # Change	Employment % Change	Job Openings
Registered Nurses	8,249	18.88	16,719
Retail Salespersons	6,686	9.77	30,103
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	6,540	14.99	23,204
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	5,835	15.56	17,452
Customer Service Representatives	5,441	14.05	15,978
Home Health Aides	4,991	46.51	7,032
Team Assemblers	4,860	12.06	11,229
Personal Care Aides	4,809	41.86	5,631
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	4,315	18.79	7,987
Nursing Assistants	4,185	21.99	7,804

Table 2. Top 10 occupations in employment percentage increase

Occupation Title	Employment % Change	Employment # Change	Job Openings
Audiologists	47.67	41	59
Insulation Workers, Mechanical	47.57	186	238
Home Health Aides	46.51	4,991	7,032
Interpreters and Translators	43.65	220	289
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	43.33	338	448
Helpers--Brickmasons, Blockmasons, Stonemasons, and Tile and Marble Setters	43.18	133	181
Personal Care Aides	41.86	4,809	5,631
Orthotists and Prosthetists	41.71	73	90
Information Security Analysts	40.37	417	579
Skincare Specialists	39.78	220	266

As shown, since Employment Number Change represents new jobs added to the occupation, Table 1 tends to pick up occupations of significant size, while Table 2 emphasizes how fast an occupation will grow by the projected year compared to its original size. Only two occupations appeared in both Table 1 and Table 2 - Home Health Aides and Personal Care Aides. Both are relatively large in size and fast in growth as well.

Table 3. Top 10 occupations with most job openings

Occupation Title	Job Openings	Employment # Change	Employment % Change
Retail Salespersons	30,103	6,686	9.77
Cashiers	28,070	2,050	3.41
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	23,204	6,540	14.99
Waiters and Waitresses	19,746	2,139	5.84
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	17,452	5,835	15.56
Registered Nurses	16,719	8,249	18.88
Customer Service Representatives	15,978	5,441	14.05
Team Assemblers	11,229	4,860	12.06
Office Clerks, General	10,878	3,082	8.31
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	9,582	3,975	13.34

Job openings include new jobs and replacement openings, which are generally caused by people leaving a job at retirement or moving to another position. Since both Table 1 and Table 3 describe employment numbers or job openings, there are far more mutual occupations in them than there are in Table 1 and Table 2. The six mutual occupations found in Table 1 and Table 3 (Registered Nurses, Retail Salespersons, Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, including Fast Food, Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand, Customer Service Representatives, and Team Assemblers) represent an overwhelming majority in both employment number change and job openings.